

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6531

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEUSINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 1415

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJ: SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT: MIDEAST SITUATION

SUMMARY: IN RESPONSE TO MY QUERY RE HIS REACTION TO SECRETARY'S FOREIGN POLICY REPORT, FONMIN SABAH SAID USG SHOULD TAKE FOLLOWING ACTION TO HELP SOLVE MIDEAST PROBLEM: ACTIVELY PURSUE SETTLEMENT BASED ON SC RES 242, ACTIVELY SEEK VIEWS MAJOR PALESTINIAN GROUPS, URGENTLY SEEK FEASIBLE WAYS TO SUPPORT SADAT, AND CONVINCE ISRAELIS TO DEMONSTRATE FLEXIBILITY INCLUDING ACCEPTANCE OF SOLUTION ALONG LINES SC RES 242. END SUMMARY

1. IN CALL ON FONMIN SABAH APRIL 28, I DELIVERED COPY OF SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT ON FOREIGN POLICY UNDER COVER OF MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY (PARA FIVE REFTEL) IN MAKING PRESENTATION I WENT OVER POINTS MADE IN PARA TWO OF REFTEL, WITH PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO NINE OBJECTIVES OUTLINED IN SECRETARY'S INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS. FONMIN EXPRESSED HIS THANKS AND SAID REPORT WOULD BE STUDIED ESPECIALLY OF COURSE MIDEAST ESCTION.

2. OBSERVING THAT SOME EXCERPTS OF SECRETARY'S REPORT HAVE ALREADY REACHED LOCAL PRESS I ASKED SABAH WHETHER HE HAD ANY THOUGHT OR REACTION TO REPORTS PRESENTATION OF US MIDEAST POLICY AND EFFORTS BE HELPFUL IN MOVEMENT TOWARD SETTLEMENT AND PACE IN AREA. SABAH

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REPLIED HE BELIEVED USG SHOULD TAKE THE FOLLOWING FOUR ACTIONS TO HELP SOLVE MIDEAST PROBLEM.

A. ACTIVELY SUPPORT AND PURSUE (SECRETARY' S REPORTS SAYS " CREATE" MOMENTUM TOWARD) PERMANENT SETTLEMENT BASED ON RES 242. FONMIN BELIVES RES 242 IS BEST ROUTE TO GO BUT ITS FULFILLMENT WILL REQUIRE MAJOR INPUT OF EFFORTS BY US ITSELF.

B. ACTIVELY SEEK VIEWS OF MAJOR PALESTINIAN GROUPS IN ORDER TO (1) DEMONSTRATE US CONCERN WITH PROBLEM OF PALESTINIANS AND (2) DETERMINE WHAT MAJORITY OF PALESTINIANS APPEAR TO WANT. PROBLEM ADMITTEDLY VERY COMPLEX WITH TREMENDOUS SPECTRUM OF VIEWS. NEVERTHELESS NO MIDEAST SOLUTION WILL BE PERMANENT WITHOUT ACCOMMODATING MILLIONS OF LANDLESS STATELESS PALESTINIANS IN SOME SATISFACTORY WAY.

C. URGENTLY SEEK FEASIBLE WAYS OF SHORING UP INTERNAL POSITION OF PRESIDENT SADAT IN EGYPT. SADAT IS BEST OF CURRENT ALTERNATIVES FOR EGYPTIAN LEADERSHIP AND HE IS IN DANGER FROM THE LEFT. IF SADAT IS TOPPLED, CONSEQUENCES WILL BE WIDE AND DISASTROUS THROUGHOUT MODERATE ARAB WORLD. MOREOVER ONE CANNOT EXCLUDE POSSIBILITY SADAT WILL FEEL HIMSELF FORCED BY DOMESTIC PRESSURES TO LAUNCH SOME ADVENTURE AGAINST ISRAEL-- AGAIN WITH DISASTEROUS CONSEQUENCES.

3. USE CONSIDERABLE MEANS USG HAS AT ITS DISPOSAL PERSUADE ISRAEL THAT US UNWILLING ACCEPT CONTINUATION PRESENT OF DANGEROUS THREAT TO STABILITY OF AREA THREAT TO US INTERESTS IN ARAB WORLD AND WEAKENING OF POSITION. IT MODERATE ARAB FRIENDS ON WHOM THOSE INTEREST DEPEND. ISRAEL MUST THEREFORE DEMONSTRATE REAL FLEXIBILITY INCLUDING ACCEPTANCE OF SOLUTION ALONG LINES RES 242. GUT ISSUE HERE IS WHAT TERRITORIES ACQUIRED IN 1967 ARE GOING TO BE GIVEN UP BY ISRAEL AND UNDER WHAT CONDITIONS.

3. FONMIN SABAH WENT ON TO SAY GOK HAD GREETED NEWS OF US ABSTENTION ON UN BEIRUT RAID RESOLUTION WITH GREAT RELIEF AND APPRECIATION. ABSTENTION SABAH OPINED WAS REASONABLE POSITION INTERESTING HE ADDED THAT ALL THREE GREAT POWERS FOUND THEMSELVES IN SAME VOTING COLUMN, ALTHOUGH FOR VERY DIFFERENT
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REASONS. I REFERRED SABAH TO AMBASSADOR SCALI' S REMARKS AFTER VOTE TO EFFECT THAT WHILE RESOLUTION WAS NOT FULLY SATISFACTORY, IT DID NEVERTHELESS CONTAIN ELEMENT OF GAIN IN CONDEMNING INTERNATIONAL ACTS OF TERRORISM AND VIOLENCE.
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